**University of Maryland Extension Welcomes to Talbot County**

The new Area Extension Director (AED) for Caroline, Dorchester and Talbot Counties is **Sara Rich**. Sara joins us with 15 years of experience in the public sector administering maternal, child and adolescent health programs. Most recently, she served as the Vice President of Community Programs with Choptank Community Health System, a federally qualified health center. In this capacity, Sara directed programs throughout the Mid Shore including school based medical and dental, migrant health services, pharmacy assistance and the Maryland Health Connection connector program. Previously, Sara was the Associate Director of the National Center for Child Death Review, a program of the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Health Resources and Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In October 2012, she was appointed to the Governor’s School Based Health Center Policy Advisory Council and will serve a three year term. Sara has a Master’s Degree in Public Administration from Western Michigan University and lives in Easton with her husband Matt and children, Jonah and Sawyer. She is proud to be part of the University of Maryland Extension and is enjoying working with the outstanding faculty, staff, volunteers and community partners in Caroline, Dorchester and Talbot Counties. You can reach Sara on srich1@umd.edu.

**Matt Wood,** Agriculture Program Assistant has joined the UME – Talbot County team this October. Matt is an Easton High School graduate, graduating at the top of his class and has developed a background in horticultural and business studies. He currently attends Salisbury University and plans on transferring in order to fulfill a major in Agricultural and Extension Education. Aside from school, Matt is also very involved in educating youth about agriculture. Such efforts include his commitment to FFA, where Matt has been a 6 year member of the Easton FFA.
Talbot County Corn Club and Soybean Improvement Awards

Samples have been collected and are being analyzed for the 62nd Annual Talbot County Corn Club and the 43rd Annual Soybean Improvement awards. It is great to continue this Talbot County Tradition. The program will be held in January 23, 2014 at the VFW on Glebe Road in Easton. Please call 410-822-1244 if you would like to attend. The guest speaker this year is Dr. Angus Murphy, University of Maryland College Park.

USDA Announces Notice of Funding Availability for Value-Added Producer Grants

WASHINGTON, Nov. 25, 2013 – Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced the availability of nearly $10.5 million in U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) grants to help agricultural producers enter into value-added activities designed to give them a competitive business edge.

"U.S. agriculture is connected to one in 12 American jobs, and value-added products from homegrown sources are one important way that agriculture generates economic growth," Vilsack said. "Supporting producers and businesses to create value-added products strengthens rural economies, helps fuel innovation, and strengthens marketing opportunities for producers – especially at the local and regional level."

The funding is being made available through the Value-Added Producer Grant program. Grants are available to help agricultural producers create new products, expand marketing opportunities, support further processing of existing products or goods, or to develop specialty and niche products. They may be used for working capital and planning activities. The maximum working capital grant is $200,000; the maximum planning grant is $75,000.

Grant applications are due by Feb. 24, 2014. More information about how to apply is available on page 70260 of the November 25 Federal Register, or by contacting any USDA Rural Development state office.

2014 Mid-Atlantic Small Flock Poultry Expo

January 18, 2014 - Chesapeake College: Eastern Shore Higher Education Center, Rm 110, 1000 College Circle, Wye Mills, MD, 21679

February 8, 2014 - University of Maryland Extension - Montgomery County Office: 18410 Muncaster Road, Derwood, MD, 20855

March 8, 2014 - North Harford High School: 211 Pylesville Road, Pylesville, MD, 21132

The mini expos will feature at least 10 educational seminars on urban poultry keeping, feeds & feeding, breed characteristics, rules and regulations, disease prevention and control, production basics, predator control, poultry first aid, poultry production for profit, breeding & incubation, egg grading and handling. Registration is required: Adults: $35 and Children under 18 years: $15. Registration fees include lunch. To register online go to: www.smallflockpoultryexpo.eventbrite.com

NO on-site registration is offered!

http://extension.umd.edu/newfarmer
Agriculture in Maryland ~ Maryland Public Broadcasting

Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. On MPT
Maryland Public Television

Television and the Maryland Department of Agriculture is hosting a series of programs about agriculture in Maryland that will premiere on Maryland Public Television (HD). All 13 segments of the series will air on Tuesday nights at 7:00 p.m. and then be repeated on MPT2 as follows. You can also watch online at http://video.mpt.tv/video/2365124513/

Women in Agriculture Conference

The University of Maryland Extension, Delaware Cooperative Extension, Delaware State Extension and Rutgers Cooperative Extension will partner to offer the 13th Annual MidAtlantic Women In Agriculture Regional Conference. The conference will be held on February 20, 2014 at Dover Downs Hotel and Casino in Dover, Delaware. The conference goals are to offer women who are involved with agriculture the opportunity to come together to learn about current issues and topics so they can make informed decisions concerning their agribusinesses and family lives. Sessions will cover marketing, food preservation, business planning and much more. New for 2014, a preconference will also be offered. The preconference will take place on February 19, 2014 from 1-5pm. Participants can choose between two track offerings: Agritourism or Health Insurance Literacy.

The cost of the conference is $45. The cost for the preconference is $30. For more information or to register visit the website www.extension.umd.edu/womeninag or call 410-822-1244. If you require special assistance to attend the classes please contact the site at least two weeks prior.

Managing for Today and Tomorrow

The University of Maryland and Delaware Cooperative Extension will conduct Annie’s Project; Managing for Today and Tomorrow, during the winter of 2014 at four sites in Maryland and Delaware. Managing for Today and Tomorrow is a program designed to help you become involved in the journey of transitioning the farm legacy. Special focus will be placed on the woman’s role in transition planning, which is the process of creating and implementing an overall strategy to move the farm business from one generation to the next. Topics for the sessions cover Succession Planning, Estate Planning, Retirement Planning and Business Planning.

The course will be 6 sessions held at a variety of sites in Maryland and Delaware. Locations include; Chesapeake College, Wye Mills MD, Cecil County Administration Building, Elkton MD, Harford County Community College, Bel Air, MD and Carvel Research & Education Center, Georgetown DE. Classes will be held weekly starting in early 2014.

For more information and to register visit the website www.extension.umd.edu/annies-project or call 410-758-0166. Registration deadline is January 10th. Space is limited. The course fee of $60 includes all meals and materials. If you require special assistance to attend the classes please contact the site at least two weeks prior.

The weather closing policy for Extension programs is:
If the Talbot County schools are closed than programs are not conducted. If Talbot County Government is closed the Extension office will be closed as well.
New Soil Test Information Needed for PMT Study
Nov 15, 2013
Author: Patricia Hoopes, Harford County Nutrient Management Advisor

Do you have fields that have excessive phosphorus levels? The way we are handling it has changed! Any time a field has a Phosphorus Fertility Index Value (FIV) of 150 or greater, a study needs to be completed to determine the feasibility of additional applications of phosphorus. In recent years the tool used has been the Phosphorus Site Index (PSI), but we now have a new tool – the Phosphorus Management Tool (PMT). In order to complete the PMT study, additional information about the soil is required – the Degree of Phosphorus Saturation, or DPS. Temporarily, we are permitted to estimate the DPS; however, in the future DPS analysis results will be required for fields with excessive phosphorus.

How do you get a DPS result? Soil testing labs can test for DPS. Alternatively, if the lab tests for aluminum (Al) and iron (Fe) using Mehlich-3 extraction method, DPS can be calculated using NuManPro 4.0, the software we use to write your nutrient management plan. Here is what to expect from each of our recommended soil testing labs.

Labs that do not charge extra for the DPS:
- AgroLab Inc.: The “University of D P Sat Ratio” is the same as DPS and is part of their standard soil test.
- Brookside Laboratories, Inc.: Al and Fe are routinely reported for option SOO1.
- NuMan Pro 4.0 can calculate DPS from this information.
- Spetrum Analysis, Inc.: Will report DPS for UM-PMT when ordering S1 or S2 option.
- University of Delaware Soil Testing Program: The “Percent P Saturation” is the same as DPS and is included in B1 Routine Analysis.

Labs that charge separately for the DPS:
- A&L Eastern Agricultural Lab, Richmond: Al and Fe can be requested for an additional $3 per sample. NuMan Pro 4.0 can calculate DPS when soil test includes Mehlich-3 Fe and Al.
- Agri-Analysis, Inc.: Al and Fe can be requested for an additional $3 per sample. NuMan Pro 4.0 can calculate DPS when soil test includes Mehlich-3 Fe and Al.
- Pennsylvania Agricultural Analytical Services Penn State University: Al and Fe can be requested for an additional $6 per sample. NuMan Pro 4.0 can calculate DPS when soil test includes Mehlich-3 Fe and Al.

Labs with special consideration:
- Water Agricultural: Maryland samples should now be sent to Waters-Kentucky. Why? They use Mehlich-3 as an extractant. Fe and Al can be obtained when one requests the Basic Test 4 + AL. Write “M3 and nutrient management” on soil submission form.

As a special note, some labs automatically run a full range of nutrient testing and keep the information electronically. If the owner of the soil later request additional information, the lab may have it and can provide the information for an additional fee. These labs can retroactively provide the DPS or Fe and Al. Agri Analysis, Penn State, and A&L fall into this category. Waters, however, does not routinely analyze for Al and only keeps soil samples for one month.
The information included in this article is from the new “Comparison of Soil Test Labs” Fact Sheet.
- See more at: http://extension.umd.edu/news/new-soil-test-information-needed-pmt-study#sthash.ceuOicLA.dpuf

**Talbot Nutrient Management News**
The article above is important information to consider when new soil samples are needed.

When you have your 2014 cropping information, new soil samples if needed and a manure sample if you are applying manure, please come into the University of Maryland Extension office as soon as possible so we can start working on developing your plan.

As many of you realize Nutrient Management Plans are more complex and complicated to write and therefore much more time is involved in writing them with the new PMT comparisons.

With all this said and done those of you who wait to the last minute may not have a Nutrient Management Plan for the 2014 crop year. Maryland Department of Agriculture does not want any plans written “after the fact” or after nutrient have already been applied. So it is imperative to come into the office as soon as possible.

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**2014 MDA Nutrient Management Reporting Forms Available On-Line**

The 2014 Nutrient Management Annual Implementation Reporting Form (AIR) is now available on the MDA website at www.mda.maryland.gov/resource_conservation/Pages/air.aspx. The form documents how farmers implemented their nutrient management plans during calendar year 2013. It is due back to MDA by March 1. Most farmers also will receive copies of the form in the mail. For more information, visit us online or contact MDA’s Nutrient Management Program at 410-841-5959.

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**PRIVATE APPLICATOR CERTIFICATION**

Feb 5, 2014, Exam Prep
Talbot/Caroline/Dorchester County, 6:30 – 8:30 pm, Dorchester County. Call 410-228-8800 to register, February 12, 2014, EXAM

**PRIVATE PESTICIDE APPLICATOR RECERTIFICATION & NUTRIENT VOUCHER**

Jan 23, 2014, Dorchester County
AGRONOMY DAY, Cambridge MD. Call Sudeep Mathew 410-228-8800 to register.

Feb 19, 2014, Caroline County AGRONOMY DAY, Denton, MD Call Jim Lewis, 410-479-4030 to register.

Feb 28, 2014, Queen Anne’s County AGRONOMY DAY, Centreville. Call Jenny or Shelia 410-758-0166 to register.

Mar 4, 2014, Talbot County 6-9 pm at Talbot Ag Center (Hiners Lane), Easton. Call Shannon or Pam 410-822-1244 to register.

**COMMERCIAL PESTICIDE APPLICATORS**


Feb 6, 2014, Commercial Pesticide Recertification, Caroline Co. 4-H Park. Contact Jim Lewis, 410-479-4030.
CALENDAR of EVENTS

January 13-17
2014 Delaware Ag Week
For more information
http://sites.udel.edu/delawareagweek/

January 17-18
15th Anniversary Farming for Profit and
Stewardship Conference (College Park, MD)
http://www.futureharvestcasa.org/

January 15
Maryland/Delaware Forage Council Southern
MD Hay & Pasture Conference in Waldorf, MD.
Topics will be presented covering all aspects of
hay and pasture production. The programs will
address key issues and concerns facing hay and
pasture producers. The conferences also features
displays and exhibits by numerous
agribusinesses. Attendees will be able to obtain
information on seed, fertilizer, equipment,
fencing, etc. needed for hay and pasture
production and management.
More detailed program information on the
Southern Maryland Conference will soon be
available on the Web at:
http://www.mdforages.umd.edu or through local
county Extension and NRCS/Soil Conservation
District offices in MD.

January 21
8:30 am – 4 pm
Cecil County Agronomy Winter Meeting
Calvert Grange Hall
2357 Telegraph Road Rising Sun, MD 21911
$5 registration fee- paid at the meeting
Registration is required: 410-996-5280 ask for
Patty or Doris

January 23
Dorchester Agronomy Meeting
8:30am – 3:30pm, Eastern Shore Hospital
Center English Hall
For more information call 410-228-8800
** nutrient management and private applicator
credits available

January 23
Talbot County Corn Club
6pm, VFW Easton
For more information call 410-822-1244

January 28 (snow date January 31) and
February 10 (exam and plan writing) (snow date
February 14)
Nutrient Management, Farmer Training and
Certification
“Write Your Own Nutrient Management Plan”
- Crop Operations using Manure and Fertilizer
University of Maryland Wye Research and
Education Center
For more information, please call 410-841-5959

January 29
Lower Shore Agronomy Meeting
8:30am – 3:00pm, Christ United Methodist
Church Salisbury
For more information call 410-651-1350
** nutrient management and private applicator
credits available

January 30
8 am – 3 pm
AgrAbility Workshop
Cecil County Administrative Building, Elk
Room
200 Chesapeake Blvd, Elkton, MD 21921
No Fee
Registration is required: 410-996-5280 ask for
Patty or Doris

February 5 – March 12 (no class Feb 19)
Annie’s Project II: Managing for Today and
Tomorrow
6:00 – 9:00pm, Chesapeake College EDC 27,
Wye Mills
For more information call 410-822-1244/410-
758-0166 or visit
www.extension.umd.edu/annies_project

February 5
Commercial Pesticide Training
Ornamentals and Turf
Salisbury     Call 410-749-6141
February 5
Optional Training for Private Applicator Examination
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm Dorchester /Caroline/ Talbot
For more information call 410-228-8800

February 6
Commercial Pesticide Training – Agriculture
Caroline County 4-H Park, Denton
For more information call 410-479-4030

February 7
Grain Marketing Update
Chesapeake College, HEC 110, Wye Mills
For more information call 410-479-4030

February 18
Eastern Shore Vegetable meeting
830am - 3pm, Caroline County 4-H Park, Denton
For more information call 410-228-8800

February 19
Caroline County Agronomy Meeting
5pm – 10pm, Caroline 4-H Park Denton
For more information call 410-479-4030
** nutrient management and private applicator credits available

Women in Agriculture
February 19-20
Regional Women in Agriculture Conference
Dover Downs Dover DE
For more information
www.extension.umd.edu/womeninag

February 26
2013 Bay Area Fruit Meeting
Wye REC
For more information call 410-827-8056

February 12
Pesticide Private Applicator Training for Exam
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm Dorchester County Extension Office
For more information call 410-228-8800

February 28
Queen Anne’s County Agronomy Meeting
8:00am – 1:30pm, Queen Anne’s County 4-H Park, Centreville

For more information call 410-758-0166
** nutrient management and private applicator credits available

March 4
Pesticide Private Applicator Recertification & Nutrient Management Voucher
6:00-9:00p.m. Talbot County Agriculture Center, Easton
For more information call 410-822-1244

March 13
Organic Meeting
Queen Anne’s County
For more information call
410-758-0166
** nutrient management and private applicator credits available

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please feel free to contact us. All of us at the Talbot County Extension as well as everyone at the University of Maryland Extension are here to help you.

ALL OF US
WISH ALL OF YOU
THE VERY BEST
FOR THE NEW YEAR

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